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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040808-5113

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Sadami OKADA)	
)	
Application No.: 10/024,279)	Group Art Unit: 2621
)	
Filed: December 21, 2001)	Examiner: Unassigned
)	
For: IMAGE ENCODING DEVICE, IMAGE)	
DECODING DEVICE, ELECTRONIC)	
CAMERA AND RECORDING MEDIUM)	

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2002

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 § C.F.R. 1.97 (b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the events recited in § 1.97(b).

A copy of each listed document is attached. In addition, a copy of the first page, the relevant pages, and the page with the publishers information for the "Handbook for Image Processing", and for "Computer Image Processing" book, are also attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration of relevant portions thereof by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

The following is a concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language document listed:

1. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 01-307537. The relevance of this document can be understood from the attached English-language abstract.

2. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 10-177652. The relevance of this document can be understood from the attached English-language abstract.

3. Computer Image Processing - Book:

Fig. 5.3 of page 123 discloses one of Laplace operator for edge detecting ([0082], FIG. 4, etc.).

Fig. 5.6 of page 125 discloses one technique for line-thinning ([0086], FIG. 4, etc.).

Fig. 5.7 of page 126 discloses another technique for line-thinning ([0086], FIG. 4, etc.).

Fig. 5.7 of page 126 discloses another technique for line-thinning ([0086], FIG. 4, etc.).

4. Handbook for Image Processing:

Fig. 13.4 of page 318 discloses a technique for line-thinning(thinning) of binary image ([0086], FIG. 4, etc.).

Fig. 13.8 of page 321 discloses a technique which uses chain code to process smoothing ([0088], FIG. 4, FIG. 6, etc.).

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not


constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 21, 2002

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